



NEWS RELEASE

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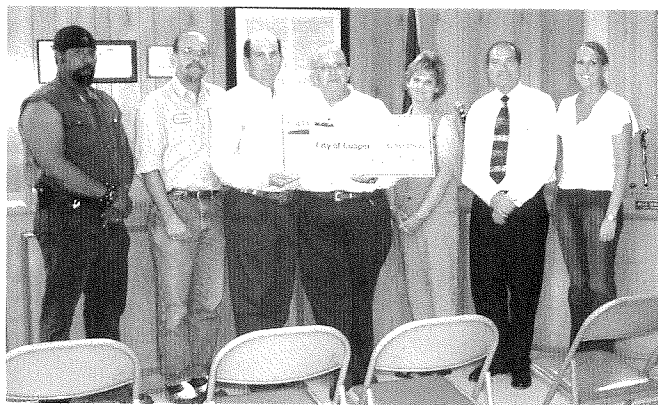
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT MARKS EARTH DAY AND ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF COOPER

Cooper, Texas, April 22, 2004 – Bryan Daniel, Texas USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today that the City of Cooper received a \$1,883,000 loan and a \$1,100,000 grant through the agency's Community Programs Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant fund. The effort is part of the USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"It is appropriate that this announcement comes on Earth Day," said Daniel. "We should remember to reaffirm our commitment to protect the earth's air, water and land, especially rural Americans, who live close to the land and make their livings from it."

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance their quality of life."



Front Row: Gail Green, Regional District, Senator John Cornyn's Office, Debbie Aikin, Congressman Max Sandlin's Office

Middle Row: Willie Wilkins, City of Cooper Alderman, Wendell Preas, City of Cooper Water/Wastewater Dept., Don Williams, CDS, USDA Rural Development, Scotty Stegall, City of Cooper Mayor, Margaret Eudy, City of Cooper Secretary, Reeves Hayter, Hayter Engineering, & Kathleen Lappen, Hayter Engineering.

Back Row: Delta County Judge Hugh Whitney

Willie Wilkins, City of Cooper Alderman, Wendell Preas, City of Cooper Water/Wastewater Dept., Don Williams, CDS with USDA Rural Development, Scotty Stegall, City of Cooper Mayor, Margaret Eudy, City Secretary, Reeves Hayter, Hayter Engineering, Kathleen Lappen, Hayter Engineering.